

Appl. No.10/708,424
Amdt. dated April 18, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Objection to the specification:

At paragraph 0015, line 2, "Fig.3" should be --Fig.2--.

At paragraph 0025, line 28, "Fig.3" should be --Fig.2--.

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Response:

Paragraphs 0015 and 0025 have been amended to correct these errors. Acceptance of the amended specification is requested.

10 2. Rejection of claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e):

Claims 1 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Shimomura (US 6,677,801).

Response:

15 Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to overcome this rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to contain the limitations previously found in claim 2, and claim 16 has been amended to contain the limitations previously found in claim 17. Both claims 2 and 17 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore, currently amended claims 1 and 16 are in
20 condition for allowance. Reconsideration of claims 1 and 16 is respectfully requested.

3. Introduction to new claims 18-31:

25 New independent claim 18 is based on the original claim 1, and also contains limitations contained in original claims 2 and 6. Specifically, claim 18 contains limitations stating that the voltage drop circuit comprises both a first voltage drop unit and a second voltage drop unit for applying first and second voltage drops to the input voltage to adjust the output voltage.

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On the other hand, Shimomura teaches in Fig2 the use of a single transistor Tr1 that serves as a means for changing the output voltage Vint based on the threshold value of the transistor Tr1. Shimomura teaches that the transistor Tr1 will either conduct or not conduct based on the level of the threshold voltage of the transistor Tr1 with respect to the decision potential Vcri input to the gate of the transistor Tr1. If the transistor Tr1 does not conduct, then the resistor R2 does not form part of a voltage divider circuit. However, if the transistor Tr1 does conduct, then the resistor R2 is included in a voltage divider circuit along with the resistors R1 and R3. Thus, the state of the transistor Tr1 affects the reference voltage Vref coming out of the voltage divider.


In summary, Shimomura only teaches the use of a single transistor Tr1 for controlling the output voltage Vint to be at one of two different voltage levels. Therefore, claim 18 is patentably distinguished from the Shimomura patent since claim 18 recites the first and second voltage drop units for applying first and second voltage drops for adjusting the output voltage. The first and second voltage drop units can cause the output voltage to be one of either three or four values, depending on the exact properties of the circuitry. Since Shimomura does not teach the use of two independent voltage drop units, Shimomura does not anticipate the new independent claim 18.

New claim 19 is written using the limitations of original claim 2 that have not been added to claim 18. New claims 20-31 are based on original claims 3-5 and 7-15, respectively. No new matter has been added through the introduction of any of the new claims. Acceptance of new claims 18-31 is respectfully requested.

In light of the above statements in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,



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